I believe we let the Dallas Police Dept. off too easily. Somebody, or the Dept. itself, was remiss.

It is possible to speculate that Ruby should have been seen by police officers on both the Main and Commerce Street sides as he edged forward to the area in which Oswald was to walk. TV films depict Ruby standing momentarily behind Detective Harrison, seconds before the shooting. Harrison immediately shouted "Jack, don't" as Ruby moved forward from Harrison's side and rear. However, Harrison's prompt recognition may simply have been the result of years of acquaintanceship with Ruby, and Ruby's own recognition of Harrison may have caused him to stand near Harrison in order to seize an advantage of which Harrison was unaware. Finally, the fact that Ruby had moved freely at the Police Department during the two previous days, the presence of authoritative superior officers in the basement, and a mistaken faith in the system of identifying news representatives may have created a sense of acceptance among junior officers who might have recognized Ruby among the newsmen.

Pages 38, 39 + 40 could be better drafted. Facts are drawn incidentally into argument I.

5. Appraisal of Security Precautions.

Despite the fact that there is no evidence that any police official knowingly helped Ruby gain access to the basement, the Dallas Police Department must bear major responsibility for Ruby's slaying of Oswald. Inadequate planning and lack of close supervision by the responsible officials were predominant factors in the police

the transfer plans throughout the morning, obviating the need for Ruby to obtain information surreptitiously.

ADEQUACY OF SECURITY PRECAUTIONS

The shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald obviously resulted from the failure of the security precautions which the Dallas Police Department had taken to protect their prisoner. In assessing the causes of the security failure, the Commission has not overlooked the extraordinary circumstances which prevailed during the days that the attention of the world was turned on Dallas. Confronted with a unique situation, the Dallas police took special security measures to insure Oswald's safety. Unfortunately these did not include adequate control of the great crowd of newsmen that inundated the police department building.

The Dallas police had in custody a man whose alleged act had brought upon him immediate and universal opprobrium. There were many possible reasons why people might have attempted to kill him, if given the opportunity. Concerned that there might be an attempt on Oswald's life, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover sent a message to Chief Curry on November 22 through Special Agent Manning C. Clements of the FBI's Dallas office, urging that Oswald be afforded the utmost security. Curry does not recall receiving the message.[179]

Although the presence of a great mass of press representatives created an extraordinary security problem in the building, the police department pursued its normal policy of admitting the press. That policy, set forth in General Order No. 81 of the Dallas Police Department, provided—

> * * * that members of this Department render every assistance, except such as obviously may seriously hinder or delay the proper functioning of the Department, to the accredited members of the official news-gathering agencies and this includes newspaper, television cameramen and news-reel photographers.[180]

In a letter to all members of the police department, dated February 7, 1963, Chief Curry explained the general order, in part, as follows:

> The General Order covering this subject is not merely permissive. It does not state that the Officer may, if he so chooses, assist the press. It rather places on him a responsibility to lend active assistance.
>
> * * * * * * *
>
> * * * as a Department we deal with public affairs. It is the right of the public to know about these affairs, and one of the most accurate and useful avenues we have of supplying this information is through the newspapers and radio and television stations.
>
> Implied in the General Order is a prohibition for the Officer to improperly attempt to interfere with the news media representa-

The Dallas Police Department, concerned at the failure of its security measures, conducted an extensive investigation that revealed no information indicating complicity between any police officer and Jack Ruby.[167] Ruby denied to the Commission that he received any form of assistance.[168] The FBI interviewed every member of the police department who was on duty in the basement on November 24, and Commission staff members took sworn depositions from many. With few exceptions, newsmen who were present in the basement at the time also gave statements and/or depositions. As the record before the Commission indicated, Ruby had had rather free access to the Dallas police quarters during the period subsequent to the assassination, but there was no evidence that implicated the police or newsmen in Ruby's actions on that day.[169]

Ruby was known to have a wide acquaintanceship with Dallas policemen and to seek their favor. According to testimony from many sources, he gave free coffee at his clubs to many policemen while they were on duty and free admittance and discounts on beverages when they were off duty.[170] Although Chief Curry's estimate that approximately 25 to 50 of the 1,175 men in the Dallas Police Department knew Ruby[171] may be too conservative, the Commission found no evidence of any suspicious relationships between Ruby and any police officer.

The Commission found no substantial evidence that any member of the Dallas Police Department recognized Jack Ruby as an unauthorized person in the basement prior to the time Sgt. P. T. Dean, according to his testimony, saw Ruby dart forward toward Oswald. But Dean was then part way up the Commerce Street ramp, too far removed to act.[172] Patrolman W. J. Harrison, Capt. Glen King, and reserve officers Capt. C. O. Arnett and Patrolman W. M. Croy were among those in front of Ruby at the time Dean saw him. They all faced away from Ruby, toward the jail office.[173] Video tapes show that Harrison turned in the direction of the ramp at the time Lieutenant Pierce's car passed, and once again 25 seconds later, but there is no indication that he observed or recognized Ruby.[174] The policemen standing on the south side of the passageway from the jail office, who might have been looking in Ruby's direction, had the glare of television and photographer's lights in their eyes.[175]

The Commission also considered the possibility that a member of the police department called Ruby at his apartment and informed him, either intentionally or unintentionally, of the time of the planned transfer. From at least 10:19 a.m., until close to 11 a.m., on Sunday, Ruby was at his apartment,[176] where he could have received a call that the transfer was imminent. He apparently left his apartment between 10:45 and 11 a.m.[177] However, the drive from Ruby's apartment to the Western Union office takes approximately 15 minutes.[178] Since the time of the contemplated transfer could not have been known to anyone until a few minutes before 11:15 a.m., a precise time could not have been conveyed to Ruby while he was at his apartment. Moreover, the television and radio publicized